



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In Reply Refer To: CON040 2930

Instruction Memorandum No. CON040-2016-01

To: Resources and Recreation Staff

From: Field Manager, Colorado River Valley Field Office

Subject: Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO) Special Recreation Permit (SRP) Policy for Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Group River Use on the Colorado River, Eagle River and the Roaring Fork River.

Program Area. Recreation and Visitor Services.

Purpose. The purpose of this policy is to clarify when a SRP is required for commercial, competitive, and organized group river uses within the CRVFO.

CRVFO Policy/Action. Effective the date of this memorandum, an SRP will not be required for river-related commercial, competitive, or organized group uses that:

1. Begin and end on non-BLM-administered lands (i.e., stream beds or river banks) and simply float through or over BLM-administered lands even if some BLM parcels happen to be larger than one mile; and
2. do not use BLM lands for commercial, competitive, or organized group (e.g., wade fishing, lunch stops or anchoring); and
3. do not use BLM-managed or BLM cooperatively managed facilities.

Locations. This policy will apply to SRPs within the CRVFO on the following rivers or river sections:

- Colorado River (State Bridge to Debeque),
- Eagle River (Edwards to the confluence), and the
- Roaring Fork River.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected. The BLM Recreation Permit and Fee Administration Handbook H-2930-1 states: the BLM authorizes recreation use of the public lands and related waters through the issuance of special recreation permits and recreation use permits. The BLM's authority to issue permits is described in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2930. The authority to collect and retain recreation fees is specified in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) of 2004... SRPs are authorizations that allow for commercial, competitive, and group recreation uses of the public lands and related waters. They are issued as a means to control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of

visitors...It also issues SRPs as a mechanism to provide fair market value to the United States for the recreational use of public lands.

The BLM authorized officer may waive SRP requirements if the use or event begins and ends on nonpublic lands or related waters, traverses less than a total of 1 mile of public lands or 1 shoreline mile, and poses no threat of significant damage to public land or water resource values (43 CFR 2932.12) (e.g., an outfitter crosses 80 acres of BLM-managed land on an existing trail to access his/her hunting camp on state land).

Background. This CRVFO-specific policy is enacted to recognize four key management factors:

1. The difficulty in administering SRPs within the fragmented landscape of BLM and private lands within the CRVFO even if some parcels happen to be larger than one mile.
2. That river trips encompass a significantly larger amount of non-BLM managed lands than BLM lands and that the benefits to the BLM to put these trips under permit (i.e., fair market return for scenic benefits to users during float) do not outweigh the negative impacts (i.e., increased evaluation and administration workload and limited staffing and resources needed in order to issue all of these permits).
3. This commercial, competitive, or organized group use of floating by (or over) BLM public lands without using any surface BLM public lands (including wading or anchoring) poses no threat of significant damage to public land or water resource values, has no threat to public health and safety, has a negligible effect on creating conflicts with public land users on the BLM public land, does not hinder the BLM's ability to accomplish management goals and objectives set forth in the 2015 CRVFO Resource Management Plan, and does not require specific BLM management, monitoring, insurance, or bonding.
4. The Colorado Constitution declares the unappropriated water of every natural stream public property.

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